



Martin Gibbs
Head of Complaints,
Members Enquiries
& Freedom of
Information

Mr Alan Combe
[request-217596-
70ad3479@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-217596-70ad3479@whatdotheyknow.com)

Ask for: Information Governance Complaints, Members Enquiries & Freedom of Information
Your ref : Newham Dockside
Our ref: FOI/ E19642 1000 Dockside Road
Date: 18.08.2014 London
E16 2QU
Tel: 020 8430 2000
Fax: 020 8430 1504
Email: information.governance@newham.gov.uk
Web: www.newham.gov.uk

Dear Mr Combe,

Freedom of Information Act 2000
Request for Information: Information Provided
Please quote our reference: E19642
Subject: Deductions from Elected Members Allowances

We write with regard to your recent enquiry for information held by the Council under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We trust that the information provided is satisfactory. You are free to use the information for your personal use only. Any other type of re-use, for example, publishing the information or issuing copies to the public will require permission of the copyright owner. If the Council is the copyright owner, a licence can be applied for under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005.

For future reference we publish information on our website, including the Freedom of Information Publication Scheme and summary of Freedom of Information requests and responses that may be of help to you in searching for information. Our website is mentioned above.

It is important to note that under the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003 the Council asks not to receive unsolicited marketing communication.

Request

Between 6 April 2010 and 5 April 2014, how much, in total, has been deducted (by the Council) from the Basic Allowances paid to elected members of Newham Council and passed to funds/ accounts controlled by the Labour Group or the Labour Party?

Between 6 April 2010 and 5 April 2014, how much, in total, has been deducted (by the Council) from the Special Responsibility Allowances paid to elected members of Newham Council and passed to funds/ accounts controlled by the Mayor, the Labour Group or the Labour Party?

Response

Under the Freedom of Information Act we have the right to refuse a request for information held if an exemption applies. We believe in this case such an exemption applies and have decided to refuse your request.

We believe that disclosing even the total figure of deductions from the allowances of any Councillors over a specified period would contravene the first data protection principle, which requires that personal data shall be processed fairly and lawfully by the London Borough of Newham. We would therefore apply Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act, as the retrieval and collation of this information from the allowance records of both current and former Councillors would be to process the personal records held of those individuals for a purpose other than for which it was originally collected and subsequently held.

We therefore conclude that this third party personal data is exempt from disclosure under section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act as the recovery and subsequent disclosure of this collated information would contravene the provisions of the Data Protection Act which requires that personal data should be processed fairly and lawfully by the London Borough of Newham.

Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides an absolute exemption where disclosure of personal data about individuals would contravene any of the data protection principles set out in the Data Protection Act. Therefore there is no requirement to consider the public interest test in disclosure.

If you require any further information or are not happy with our response please do not hesitate to contact us on 0208 430 2000 or email us at information.governance@newham.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Complaints, Members Enquiries and Information Governance
Newham Council